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GENERAL FUNSTON ASKS FOR MORE TROOPS TO BE USED IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST VILLA

FRENCH DEFEATED IN VICIOUS DRIVE ON VERDUN FORTS

Germans Claim to Have Stormed Entire Line of Fortified Positions.

DEFENDERS ARE DRIVEN BACK WITH BLOODY LOSSES

Verdun-Paris Railway, Main Artery of Supply, Now Is Threatened.

BERLIN HAILS GREAT VICTORY

Russia Has Started What May Be Great Spring Offensive in East.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) LONDON, March 21.—By what is hailed in Berlin as the greatest gain since the first days of the battle, the Germans have driven forward to within two and a half miles of the Verdun-Paris railway, main artery for troops and ammunition supplying the fortress. They officially claim to have stormed the entire strongly fortified French positions in and near the forest of Avoncourt, southeast of Verdun, capturing thirty-two officers and 2,500 men and repulsing counterattacks with bloody losses to the French.

In this direction they have pushed within seven miles of Verdun from the northwest and threatened by the "pincer" tactics, used so successfully in all their campaigns against fortresses, to squeeze the French out of the three northern forts on the western bank of the Meuse. The important Verdun-Paris line already is reported to be under bombardment. The new drive of the Germans is being made slightly more than a mile to the west of Deadman's Hill (Le Mort Homme), where, for the last week, both armies have been locked in a titanic struggle of 1,000,000 men. Both still claim the upper hand at Verdun. The extensive gains claimed to-day by the German War Office are partially admitted in Paris. The French general staff reports that the attacks continued throughout the night with great violence, and that the Germans obtained a foothold in Avoncourt forest. Their attempts to debouch from the wood were repulsed. Since dawn a heavy artillery fire has been carried out against the village of Buzard and Hill No. 346, an important strategic height to the south, but no further infantry attacks have been attempted.

OPENING OF SECOND MONTH OF VERDUN DRIVE The new drive from the northwest marks the opening of the second month of the campaign against Verdun. The Germans during that period have gained from five to ten miles on all sides of the fortress, and have captured more than 35,000 prisoners and a large number of cannon. Their losses, according to French estimates, approximate 200,000, though Berlin officially asserts that they are comparatively small. The French losses are about one-third of the German, it is believed. More than 1,000,000 men are engaged in the fighting, with reserves on both sides of 500,000 to 600,000 more. The artillery firing has surpassed anything of the kind in the history of warfare.

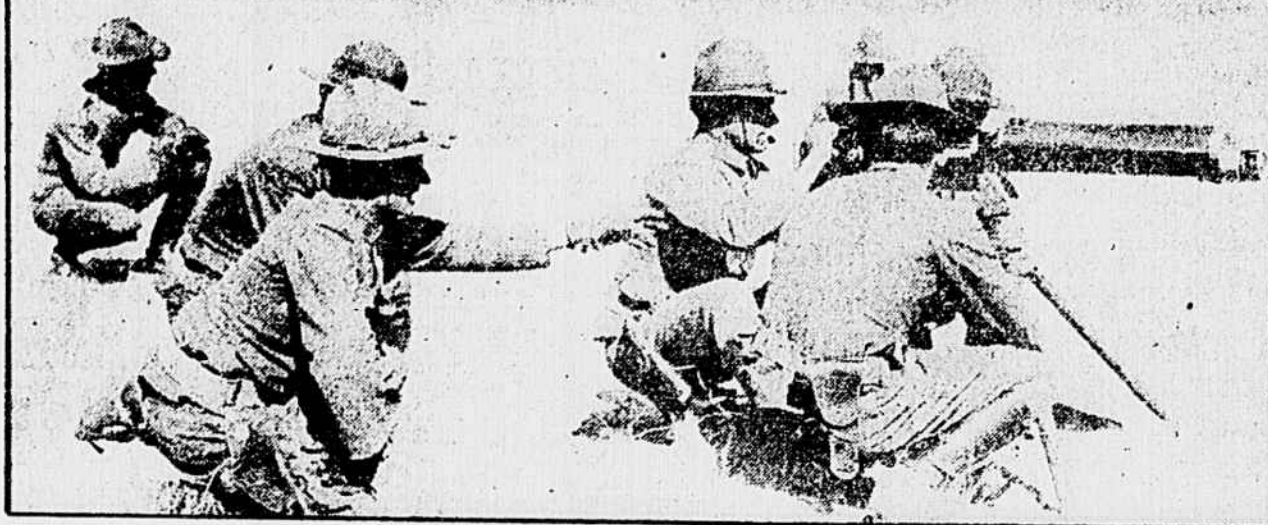
OFFENSIVE OF RUSSIANS OPENS WITH VICIOUS VICTORY (Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) LONDON, March 21.—Powerful attacks, carried out with great forces of men, have given the Russians possession of the bulwark position of the Austrians northeast of Czernowitz, the stronghold on the Dniester, at Mikulatche.

The capture of this important fortification, the first result of the Russian offensive in the south, is announced simultaneously with a Berlin admission that the German salient south of Lake Narocz, in the Dnieper region, has been given in by the Russians.

RUSSIANS EMPLOYING HUGE MASSES OF MEN On both the northern and southern wings the Russians are reported employing huge masses of men.

(Continued on Third Page.)

Scenes of Preparation Before Invasion of Mexico



Members of the Eighth United States Machine Gun Cavalry Troop sighting one of the guns.

GERMANY SEEKING END OF GREAT WAR

Even Intimates That Time May Be Ripe for Services of United States.

DISCUSSES PEACE TERMS

Facts Become Known Through Interview of Gerard With Imperial Chancellor.

State Department Issues Flat Denial

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The State Department late today took cognizance of a published report that Germany had intimated to the United States that the time was ripe for the American government, as the largest neutral nation, to begin peace negotiations, and that Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg had intimated to Ambassador Gerard that his proposed vacation was inappropriate by authorizing a flat denial of the story.

Department officials declared they had no advice whatever to warrant such statements.

It is known that the American ambassadors abroad report regularly for the information of President Wilson on the status of peace prospects, and that the latest advice indicates that each belligerent still is willing to make peace on its own terms.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) NEW YORK, March 21.—The Evening Post publishes the following from David Lawrence, its correspondent in Washington:

Washington, March 21.—Germany is seeking to make peace with her enemies and bring the great war in Europe to an early end. The imperial government has gone so far as to intimate to the United States government that the time may be ripe for the services of the largest neutral nation in the beginning of peace negotiations.

Some general idea even of the terms under which the Teutonic empire would be willing to make peace have been given within the last four days to the American ambassador, James W. Gerard, by Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor at Berlin, and spokesman of Emperor William.

SENDS FOR AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS PEACE POSSIBILITIES The Evening Post's correspondent learned the above to-day in connection with the hitherto unpublished fact that Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, four days ago, sent for Ambassador Gerard, and not only discussed with him for nearly an hour the possibilities of peace in Europe, but also frankly advised the ambassador, who had contemplated a vacation, that it would be inopportune for him to leave Germany at this time.

(Continued on Third Page.)



The photograph shows a practice charge of the Eighth United States Machine Gun Cavalry Troop at Fort Bliss.

ELLYSON DENIES HE WILL RESIGN

Contradicts Report That He Is to Quit as Chairman of State Committee.

HOLD MEETING TO-NIGHT

Virginia Democrats Will Fix Date and Pick Place for Convention.

Lebanon, Va., March 21.—Governor J. Taylor Ellyson last night flatly contradicted the report that when the State convention meets he will resign as chairman of the State Democratic Committee. The statement that he would do so, he said, is made wholly without warrant from him.

"It is not necessary for me to resign, because my term expires as soon as the convention is organized," said Mr. Ellyson. "It is not becoming in me to make any suggestion as to what the convention's policy shall be. I shall make no effort to influence the convention in the matter of filling the chairmanship for the new term. Whatever it does will, as in the past, be entirely satisfactory to me."

Further than this Mr. Ellyson had no comment to make on the suggestion in some quarters that his candidacy for the office of Governor will lead him to relinquish the reins of the party in the interest of a race in which each of the three avowed candidates for this high office may stand on the same footing.

The State Democratic Committee will meet at 8 o'clock to-night at Murphy's Hotel, for the purpose of selecting the city in which the convention is to be held and fixing its date. The committee will also fix the basis of representation for the election of delegates to the State convention.

STIFF FIGHT EXPECTED

The committee is composed of fifty members—five from each of the ten congressional districts. Under the rules, three members of any one district represent a voting quorum, and are entitled to cast the full strength of five votes on any pending question. In the selection of the convention city, therefore, the district delegations will be on a parity, since full attendance from some and a bare quorum attend from others will not carry corresponding inequalities in voting strength.

The naming of the convention city will probably produce the liveliest contest of the meeting. Besides Richmond, four other cities—Ranokke, Lynchburg, Norfolk and Bristol—will make bids for the honor of being chosen. The three last-named cities will be represented by delegations from their respective Chambers of Commerce, who will present official invitations.

Of the three, Bristol appears to be making the most strenuous effort to land the convention. The suggestion that the big Democratic convention be taken this year to the fighting Ninth has received the endorsement of Secretary Breckinridge, of the State Democratic Committee, of Judge Rhea, of the State Corporation Commission, of Alexander Forward, secretary to the Governor, and other representative party men.

SENATORS MARTIN AND SWANSON TO ATTEND With the committee will meet Senators Martin and Swanson, who expect to leave Washington on the noon train.

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MURDERS CHILDREN AND ENDS HIS LIFE

D. G. Patterson, of Greensboro, Enacts Tragedy in His Home Before Daylight.

NO REASON FOR CRIME

Father Was Recently Engaged in Unsuccessful Business Venture at Hopewell.

GREENSBORO, N. C., March 21.—D. G. Patterson, a prominently connected man of this city, early this morning killed his four children and then committed suicide. He used the full round



The photograph shows a practice charge of the Eighth United States Machine Gun Cavalry Troop at Fort Bliss.



The photograph shows a practice charge of the Eighth United States Machine Gun Cavalry Troop at Fort Bliss.

THIRTY BLOCKS OF TEXAS TOWN ARE LAID IN RUINS

Fire Sweeps Through Business and Residential Section of Paris, Causing \$3,000,000 Loss.

HUNDREDS ARE LEFT HOMELESS

Out of 140 Business Houses Only Fifteen Left Standing—Section Is Without Rain for Fifty Days, and Structures Are Quickly Consumed.

PARIS, TEX., March 21.—Thirty blocks in the business and residential section of Paris were destroyed by fire here to-night, with an estimated loss of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. Starting from causes unknown, the flames spread rapidly, consuming everything in their path. At 10:30 o'clock to-night only fifteen out of 140 business buildings were standing. The residence section was ruined, and hundreds were homeless to-night. As far as could be learned, no lives were lost.

On the east side of the public square the Merrick Hotel was gutted by flames. Probably the heaviest loser was Crook, Road & Co., a large wholesale concern, which lost a four-story brick building and stock of an estimated value of \$400,000.

GIBRALTAR HOTEL THREATENED BY FIRE

The Gibraltar Hotel, a newer structure than the Merrick, which cost about \$200,000, was threatened at a late hour. This building is about two blocks east of the Merrick Hotel.

The Burton Tool Dry Goods Company, another large wholesale concern, lost its plant and stock, valued at \$200,000. The Sutter Apartments in the residential district, completed last fall at a cost of \$250,000, are a total loss.

The palatial home of R. F. Scott, completed about three weeks ago, was completely destroyed. The flames made a clean sweep of the southern portion of the city and burned a path from three to four blocks wide extending to the public square, where a large open space arrested the course of the fire temporarily.

Palatial residences in the fashionable part of the city, smaller houses in the factory and mill districts and substantial brick buildings were razed by the fire, which was fanned by a brisk south wind.

This section has been without rain for over fifty days, and the frame buildings were consumed as tinder. The Paris fire department, a semi-volunteer organization, with apparatus far from being capable to combat such a conflagration, was powerless to stop the crushing flames. Scarcity of water also was an impediment.

COMPRESS AND COTTON FIRST DESTROYED

Just how the fire started was not known to-night. The compress, with hundreds of bales of cotton, was first consumed. The fire then spread to adjacent residences, built closely together and of light frame construction. It is eighteen blocks from the compress to the center of the business district.

(Continued on Second Page.)

WOMAN IS SAVED FROM DEATH CHAIR

Mrs. Ida Ball Warren Will Not Pay Extreme Penalty for Murder.

HER SENTENCE COMMUTED

North Carolina Governor Extends Clemency to Murderess and Accomplice.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 21.—In making formal announcement of the commutation of the death sentence of Mrs. Ida Ball Warren and Sam P. Christy, sentenced to be electrocuted for the murder of the husband of the woman at Winston-Salem, Governor Craig said:

"Sentence commuted to life imprisonment, March 21, 1916, the defendants, Ida Ball Warren and Sam P. Christy, will not suffer death, according to the judgment of the court, but instead thereof will be confined in the State's prison during the terms of their natural lives, to be kept in strict confinement and at hard labor."

HIGH AND SACRED TRUST VESTED IN GOVERNOR

"Reasons: The people of North Carolina in their Constitution declare: 'The Governor shall have power to grant

reprieves, commutations and pardons after conviction for all offenses (except in cases of impeachment) upon such conditions as he may think proper, subject to such regulations as may be provided by law relative to the manner of applying for pardons.' The power to pardon or to commute thus conferred upon the Governor has no limitation but his own conception of duty. It is the highest and most sacred trust vested by law. It must be exercised in just and humane regard for the condemned and for the rights and welfare of society."

When a petition for pardon or commutation is placed before the Governor he must act. He cannot avoid the responsibility. His action is in the orderly process of the administration of justice, provided in the Constitution. His judgment is the final decree of the people and the law pronounced by the ultimate tribunal.

"There is no escape from the conclusion that this woman, Ida Ball Warren, is guilty of murder, deliberate and premeditated, cold-blooded, and executed in determined wickedness. The verdict of the jury is fully sustained by the evidence; the sentence of the court is fixed by the statute."

MAJESTY OF LAW DOES NOT DEMAND IT

"But as the Governor of the State of North Carolina, it is not my judgment that the majesty of the law demands that this woman shall be put to death. I cannot contemplate with approval that this woman, unworthy and blackened by sin though she be, shall be shrouded in the ceremonies of death, dragged along the fatal corridor and bound in the chair of death. The spy has in all countries been punished with death. Germany executed a woman spy; England did not. The action of the military governor of Belgium was commendable because the conscience of the world. The killing of this woman would send a shiver through North Carolina. Humanity does not apply to woman the inexorable law that it does to man. This may arise from misperceived sentimentality; it may arise from the deep instincts of the race."

"The participation of Christy in this murder makes more difficult the question presented to me. He, too, is guilty. He brought the chloroform with which she drugged her husband. Either Christy or Stonestreet, her son-in-law, twisted a cord tightly around the husband's neck to make sure that he could never awake from the deadly sleep. The body was placed in a trunk. Christy and Stonestreet, hauling it away and weighting it down with iron in a deep hole of Muddy Creek. The woman conceived the design, and was the directing and dominating personality of this tragedy. Since life has been spared to her, Christy, too, must escape death."

"This action is in accord with my conception of the just and humane administration of the law. It is recommended by many of our strongest, wisest and best people. Many good men do not approve of any commutation of the judgment of the court. The responsibility of the decision rests with me."

UNUSUAL FEATURES IN FAMOUS CASE

Because of the unusual features in the case, the trial of Mrs. Warren and Christy for the murder of the woman's husband attracted wide attention. Mrs. Warren and Christy, after living together several years as 'Mr. and Mrs. Kearns,' although unmarried, were re-

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MUST PROTECT LINES BEHIND FLYING COLUMNS

Route of Communications With Pursuers of Bandit Now Nearly 200 Miles.

WILSON WILL ACCEPT PROPOSAL OF CARRANZA

Protocol for Working Arrangement Will Be Put in Form in Few Days.

TWO AEROPLANES ARE LOST

Wires Are Cut and Details of Naminiquipa Battle Still Are Unknown.

Carranza's Proposal for Protocol Accepted

WASHINGTON, March 21.—While Acting Secretary Pulk, of the State Department, and Elisen Arredondo, Mexican ambassador-designate, were conferring during the day over the terms of the protocol proposed by General Carranza to govern the joint pursuit of Villa, the War Department was ordering additional troops to the border in response to a request from General Funston. Mr. Arredondo conferred at length with Mr. Pulk after President Wilson and his cabinet had decided to accept the proposal for a protocol. Later it was said that the terms of the proposed convention virtually had been agreed upon, and it was quite probable it would be in force within a few days.

It is understood that it is proposed to have the agreement cover such questions as how many American troops shall enter Mexico, how far into the country they shall penetrate, methods of co-operation and the use of railroads for military purposes.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., March 21.—General Funston to-day asked the War Department for more troops to be sent into Mexico in pursuit of Francisco Villa.

The request was made at the suggestion of General Pershing, commander of the expedition, who urged that another regiment be sent to him. In his message to the War Department, General Funston asked for what he termed an "adequate force."

It was announced at General Funston's headquarters that the First Cavalry, of which one squadron is at Fort Meyer, Va., another at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and the third at Fort Sheridan, Wyo., would be brought to the border. The line of communication to Casas Grandes, where he asked for other troops, General Funston would not say.

FIELD OF OPERATIONS HAS BECOME EXTENDED

The only reason given for strengthening General Pershing's force, known to be considerably more than 4,000, was that his field of operations had become so extended that his main line of communication and the subsidiary lines were in need of strengthening. "Merely a precautionary move," was the way General Funston answered all inquiries. He was asked if the reported movement of troops of the de facto government from garisons in the interior to posts on the border and reported failure of the Carranza troops in one or two instances to show active co-operation in the pursuit of Villa had anything to do with his decision to ask for more strength, but he declined to answer.

Some uneasiness was displayed for a moment at department headquarters to-day when it was reported that the telegraph wires between Casas Grandes and the border had been cut, but an official report stating that the line was a "buzzer" line General Pershing had laid and that it had been broken accidentally by some of the American forces crossing it allayed apprehension.

It is not believed here that General Funston is worried by reports of alleged growing antagonism among certain Carranza troops, although he is carefully studying that phase of the situation. It has not been forgotten at his headquarters, however, that Villa has many more troops somewhere in Northern Mexico than the few hundred said to be riding with him in his flight before the pursuing troops of the two countries. Realizing the mobile character of Villa's bands, it was not considered wise to expose General Pershing's lines too much.

FLYING COLUMNS ALMOST 200 MILES SOUTH OF BORDER

Lake Babrocora, towards which one of the columns of Villa's force, known to be reported yesterday to be moving, is about 200 miles from the border, and by the time the columns arrive at their destinations they also will be almost as far south. As far as Casas Grandes the cavalry detachments are following the trails in the heart of the country where Villa is known to

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HOME ECONOMICS

Buy-right Hints for the Thrifty Housewife

Advertising is the illuminating text of a newspaper. Imagine for a moment a newspaper void of advertising, and you have about as dry a prospect to contemplate and about as arid a thing to look at, as a sunrise view of the Sahara. Advertising is the real "spice" of the paper. Look over The Times-Dispatch this morning, and read the many attractive advertisements spread out for your

The T-D. Advertisements Make Interesting News

consideration. Imagine if you will these same pages without a line of advertising in them. They would look very dull, wouldn't they? And you would feel that things were really dull indeed, if there were no advertising printed; and you would be put to no end of trouble, loss of time, and waste of money, if the faithful advertisers of Richmond didn't keep their messages before you every day in The Times-Dispatch.

NOTE—The Times-Dispatch guarantees a marked saving on every purchase made in Richmond stores that advertise their lowest prices in these pages.

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